

ADMINISTRATIVE-INTERNAL USE ONLY

8 August 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Interview with Ms. Jane Hochman, Contract
Researcher for the Murphy Commission

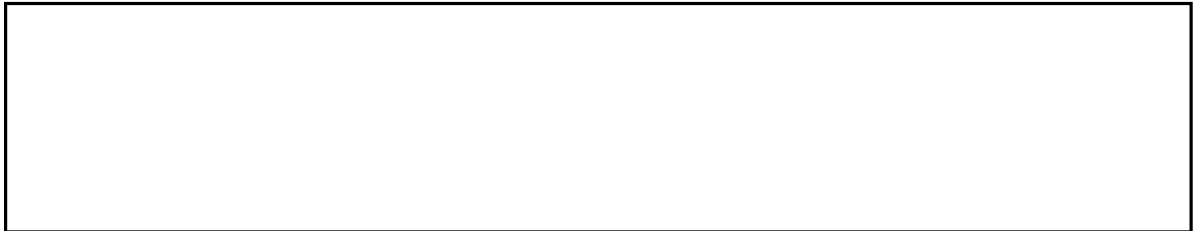
1. On the afternoon of 6 August I spent an hour and a half answering questions put by Ms. Hochman, who is employed by a "public affairs consultant" firm headed, as I understood her, by one Ed Hamilton with headquarters in San Francisco. She presented identification signed by William Bacchus, on the letterhead of the Murphy Commission. She said she had had to leave her tape recorder with the guard. Ms. Hochman's assignment is to work up a case study of the US foreign affairs decision-making process focused on the decision to cut off aid to India in December 1971, immediately following the outbreak of the Indo-Pakistani war.

2. Ms. Hochman introduced her subject by stating that the commission's interest is in the process of foreign policy and in the relationships among the institutions involved in the formulation of foreign policy rather than in whether any given policy was "right" or "wrong." Nonetheless it quickly became evident that, in her view, it is essential to get into the substance of the Indo-Pakistani affair and, therefore, into the substance of the intelligence information given the policy-makers if her study is to come to any meaningful conclusions. While I personally sympathize with her point of view, I made it clear as tactfully as I could that I could speak only to process, not to substantive content (e.g., I said that I could not give her the judgments of the SNIE on Pakistan done in April 1971, but could say that there was such an estimate, that the future of Pakistan was the topic, and that it was dated 12 April 1971).

3. While Ms. Hochman is too determined a researcher to be put off at one try, she did tacitly come to accept the idea that I would not talk substance in the sense she apparently

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which she was as careful not to spell out to me as I was the content of the document to her. She did ask, legitimately I think, what our evaluation process was for such reports, when and to whom had we passed our evaluation in this instance, etc. My memory was (honestly) very hazy on the specifics of these matters as applied to this particular report; I described in general how we "evaluate" information.

4. I tried to describe for Ms. Hochman the DCI's role in the WSAG and SRG meetings on the [redacted] affairs that I attended; I listed the dates on which we had provided the DCI with briefings for these meetings, pointing out that they were almost entirely "situation" type briefings; I gave her my personal impressions, as a spear-bearing observer, as to the general purpose of such meetings--i.e., that they were attempts to ensure that the foreign policy principals had a common understanding of the general thrust of US policy and were working from a common base of information about a given situation; I emphasized that the principals at those meetings might well have a different perspective; and I took her through the process by which at that time we prepared the DCI's briefings for such occasions.

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5. I did not have the feeling that Ms. Hochman was hanging on my every word as I described these mechanics. She was much more interested in what kinds of discussion went on at these WSAG and SRG meetings, but I was able to help her here only with the vaguest generalities. I could not recall, for example, that the mission of the Enterprise was discussed at any meeting at which I was present; I was sure that problems of relations with Congress must have been discussed, but I could recall no specifics; no, we did not keep minutes of these meetings, only notes regarding things the Agency was tasked with; and so on.

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25X1 6. I am sure that Ms. Hochman felt I was disingenuous, but the fact is that I simply do not recall in any but the most general way the kinds of detail she is interested in. Which brings up a point: aside from the propriety of discussing this or that subject with people from the Murphy Commission, we are going to have to put in a good deal of work, including retrieving documents [redacted] if we are to make a serious contribution to the commission's work even in those areas we think legitimate. To prepare for my interview with Ms. Hochman, I was fortunate to have available the NSCIG post mortem on the intelligence community's performance in the Indo-Pakistani war, plus a file of the briefings written for Mr. Helms by OCI. Without these, I am afraid I might have asked, What Indo-Pakistani war?

7. One further matter. Ms. Hochman asked several times what our "unique" contribution was in the Indo-Pakistan situation. I referred to [redacted] but noted that Mr. Helms' briefings had been "all source." When she asked what that meant, I indicated that they included sensitive material from various agencies. She asked for an example, and I simply told her that her present clearances did not seem sufficient. She asked how she could get the clearances, and I said "back through channels." At which point we shook hands and I called her a cab.

[redacted]

WILLIAM PARMENTER

Deputy Director of Current Intelligence

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